

BIODIVERSITY

Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (06/08)

The following list consists of selected resources on the general topic of Wildlife. All materials are available for loan at the WCEE Resources Library. Many more resources are available on this and other topics, and there are many resources for specific animals, such as bats, wolves, raptors, snakes, etc. There is also a separate annotated bibliography for biodiversity. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance or visit our web site at www.uwsp.edu/wcee/library for additional information on borrowing resources.

Teaching Activity Guides

Exploring Biodiversity: A Guide for Educators Around the World by Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C. (2002).

Contains 10 fun, easy to do activities for students aged 9 and up, designed to introduce them to the concept of biodiversity. Each activity includes background information and bolded words are defined in a glossary in the back.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 10 activities, 84 pages WCEE call number: AC BD 11

Windows on the Wild: Biodiversity Basics (Teacher and Student Editions) by World Wildlife Fund, Acorn Naturalists, Tustin, CA. (1999).

Developed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), this may be the most comprehensive and usable biodiversity resource. Also includes numerous helpful appendices for additional information and cross-referencing. Highly recommended.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 34 activities, 477 pages WCEE call number: AC BD 8

Windows on the Wild: Oceans of Life: An Educator's Guide to Exploring Marine Biodiversity by World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C. (2003).

This guide provides ideas about how to integrate marine biodiversity into the middle school classroom. Activities and background information are designed for both formal and informal settings.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 379 pages WCEE call number: AC BD 13

Windows on the Wild SA: Science and Sustainability by Danie Schreuder et.al, University of Stellenbosch, Matieland, South Africa. (2005).

This activity book focuses on constructive and informative ways to raise awareness about biodiversity and act toward working with the environment instead of against it.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 183 pages WCEE call number: AC BD 19.

Conservation Biology by Robert Blair and Heidi Ballard. Kendall/Hunt, Dubuque, IA. (1996).

Applied ecology lessons focusing on human impacts on wildlife habitat and the loss of biodiversity. Emphasis on group work. Helpful lesson subheadings.

Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 8 lessons, 265 pages WCEE call number: AC BD 1

Losing Biodiversity by Katharine Barrett, Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, CA. (1996)
Divided into chapters, this book could be used as a student textbook. Each chapter (providing extensive background information) is also accompanied by one or more student activities.
Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 91 pages WCEE call number: AC BD 3

Videos

Exploring the Diversity of Life by Environmental Media Corporation, Beaufort, SC. (1996).
Two tapes, ten 10-minute segments on a variety of biodiversity topics. A good supplement to any biodiversity unit.
Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 100 minutes WCEE call number: AV BD 8

Planet Earth: As You've Never Seen It Before by BBC Worldwide. (2007).
In this amazing documentary from BBC, filmmakers travel all over the world to capture some of the most beautiful and inspiring footage of the Earth's last wilderness and the creatures that inhabit them. In their travels they've captured footage of some of the rarest animals known to man.
Grade levels: 5-Adult Length: 11 episodes, 55 minutes ea. WCEE call number: AV DVD EG 20

Strange Days On Planet Earth by National Geographic. (2004).
This series asks questions and investigates strange happenings throughout Earth and how they are inter-connected and related, as well as providing knowledge about science, global environmental health, human impact, and various eco-systems. Also included with this series is an activities and curricula guide (AC EG 213).
Grade levels: 5-Adult Length: 220 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD EG 1

Amazing Planet by National Geographic. (2006).
A three part series from National Geographic that looks at the history of the earth and its forces, with amazing footage of today and computer reconstructions of the time during the planet's formation, eons before humans.
Grade levels: 9-Adult Length: 150 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD EG 21

Books for Youth

Why Are Animals Endangered by Isaac Asimov, Gareth Stevens Publishing, Milwaukee, WI. (1992).
Non-fiction. A very basic overview of some of the reasons many animals face possible extinction. Written by the famous science fiction author Isaac Asimov. Also includes appendices of additional resources.
Grade levels: K-6 Length: 24 pages WCEE call number: BY ES 6

Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth by Rochelle Strauss, Kids Can Press, Toronto, ON. (2004).
This children's book is beautifully illustrated and a great introduction to biodiversity. The book shows how living things are classified into five kingdoms and how each has much to tell us about all aspects of life on our planet.
Grade levels: 4-6 Length: 40 pages WCEE call number: BY BD 4

Biodiversity by Dorothy Patent, Clarion Books, New York, NY. (1996).

Non-fiction. Enough information to serve as a textbook, but also containing photography that is quite beautiful. Also includes a glossary.

Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 109 pages

WCEE call number: BY BD 2

Reference/Background Books

Biodiversity edited by E.O. Wilson, National Academy Press, Washington, DC. (1988).

Possibly the most famous book on the subject. Chapters on a variety of topics are written by many of the most prominent names in biology and ecology. Highly recommended.

Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 521 pages

WCEE call number: BA BD 2

Biodiversity Debate: Exploring the Issue, The North American Association for Environmental Education, Washington, DC. (1997).

Published in the Environmental Issues Forums series by the NAAEE. A very complete resource covering the basic components of biodiversity controversy as well as discussions in sustainability and stewardship.

Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 42 pages

WCEE call number: BA BD 6

The Forgotten Pollinators by Stephen Buchmann and Gary Nabhan, Island Press, Washington, DC. (1997).

With a forward by E.O. Wilson, this book focuses on the specific relationships that exist between plants and their pollinators. As such, it can be used as a springboard to discussions on interrelationships and the importance of maintaining biodiversity.

Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 292 pages

WCEE call number: BA BD 7 4

Planet Earth: As You've Never Seen It Before by Alastair Fothergill, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. (2006).

In this book, the world's best nature photographers capture animals that have rarely been seen, either because of the inaccessibility of their habitat or their own elusive behavior. Each major biotic community is represented and described in lavish detail, from frozen poles to the rainforest.

Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 309 pages

WCEE call number: BA EG 23

Wisconsin's Biodiversity as a Management Issue WI Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI. (1995).

A Wisconsin-specific report on the state's biological communities and, for each, the threats and management actions needed to combat these threats.

Grade levels: 9-12, adult Length: 240 pages

WCEE call number: BA BD 8